BOARD MEETING - May 31, 1973

Present: Nathan Hare, Richard Raymond, Huey Johnson, Lois Brand, Mike Phillips, Stewart Brand, Jerry Mander, Richard Austin

We gathered in Nathan's office at The Black Scholar in Sausalito.

Nathan gave us a general outline of The Black Scholar, when and how it started, how it is financed (subscriptions, donations, etc.), the current financial status, free subscriptions to prisoners, their mailing service hassles, and their thoughts of moving to new quarters.

We next went to the agenda and Lois gave us a report on the audit. She said that Mr. Stewart Johnson was to do it but after no action for 3 weeks she called him and found out from his partner that Mr. Johnson had been ill and wasn't able to do anything. As it appears that Mr. Johnson may not be able to do the audit Lois will be going to see Vernon John next week.

Mike: Contacted Neil Boorstin, a lawyer and accountant, who is interested in doing the Random House audit. He has a reputation for being very thorough and demanding in his audits and excellent at getting at the truth.

Huey: I'd like to discuss audits. I feel that in order to be experimental in grant giving we must be careful and precise in our reporting on grants to keep the IRS happy. Our staff is paid to do the job so let's see that it's done right.

Mike: Next are scholarships. Tuition type are very touchy although there shouldn't be any problem having made one. In any case our charter does not directly include scholarships. Occasional Scholarships can be looked at as more of a benefit to an individual and less to society as a whole which makes them less acceptable in the eyes of the IRS unless it's a broad scale program.

Huey: Is Eileen Hulse in question? She is using the grant to go to law school. I'll make sure she gives us a research report.

Stewart: Steve Durkee's $1,000 for flight training seems to be OK in this regard.

Lois: Larry Sleizer received a grant also but hasn't used it as a scholarship for tuition yet.

Jerry arrived at this point and wished to tune-in to the vibes before giving his report on his activities.

Stewart: Recently made a trip East to meet with some people relative to cybernetics, Softwar, and the information utility programs. Met Mike in Chicago and went on to Champagne to talk with Heinz von Forrester. Spoke with Forrester about the need for a good book of basic cybernetics and he may support one. In Chicago we met with Gordon Pask who gave us a long cybernetics report. Gordon knows Ted Bastin and told some great stories about him. I stayed with the New Alchemists who are doing great work but are short on funds so they are now gearing down to deal with it. I'll be making a $16,000 grant to them.

Dick: I feel we need an agent in this field (solar research, etc.). John Todd seems to be a good one.

Mike: The Federal Gov't will be releasing about $40 million for solar research within a year or two.

Huey: PG & E has periodic seminars and the next one is on alternative power resources if any of our solar friends are interested.

Stewart: Our people probably wouldn't go for fear of being ripped-off.

Jerry: First I'd like to extend my welcome to Nathan. I've been busy with 2 conferences at my home. One on Brazil pertaining to our Indigena grant. Prior to the conference I realized that the Indigena people were good with the Indians and the anthropological aspect but were not able to deal with the establishment. Seeing this I brought together people who could help them - lawyers, environmentalists, media people, etc. and developed a network. Attorney Bruce Terris has agreed to go to Washington to begin preliminary research.

There's a group in Berkeley called N.A.C.L.A. who are incredibly efficient in research and they want to help and so are meeting with some lawyers to get the ball rolling on suits relating to U.S. corporate overseas rip-offs. Maybe in 6 months.

The other conference was on Media - a gathering of media people who have concerns about what is happening in the field. Asked 20 and about 40 showed including some lawyers (Gnaizda and Klein) doing access work for minorities in media. Also a journalism group forming to do investigative work in proper and accurate reporting.

Dagney Crane, (who I met at Council Grove as she is a healer), the #1 TV commercial actress, came and she said she is going to write a book exposing the ad industry from the actor/actress point of view.

Revolving Media Loan Fund: It is easy to get people to do public interest ads who are very talented but they need money to do them. RMLF would give loans on the basis that first returns would repay the loan while sharing in the succeeding profits to build the fund. I'm going to give $10-15,000 out of my funds but will need about twice that to get it started. Groundwork has to be laid first. Legal problems have to be straightened out.

Gave $3,000 to Jerry Applebaum, head of a media group in Berkeley, but have bad feelings on this one. I feel these people are pissing it away. Gave $1,600 to the Rape Crisis group to help them with their program. Made a $10,000 loan to Joan McIntyre to do the oil ad. Also gave $2,500 to Interpretive Ecologies, a group that does survival trips with kids. Made a $500 grant to a lawyer working on the Camela Mitchell case.

Lunch at the Boat House.

Mike: Do we need to find a visionary or two, the likes of Steve Baer or John Todd?

Dick: I'd agree to having a POINT hero or project.

Mike: Awards - let's reconsider doing that, for those who make a societal impression.

Stewart: Yes, for outstanding absurdity!

Mike: I have a list of those who changed our life in general:
1) Jefferson Poland - founder of the Sexual Freedom League who brought humor to the idea of Free Love;
2) D.B. Cooper - first successful hijack of an airliner for money and who made us all suspects because of our greed;
3) Ousley - the LSD king and his chemist girlfriend;
4) Mike Murphy - founder of Esalen;
5) The young girl (18 or 19) who organized the first Palace sit-ins in SF;
6) Herman Kahn - wrote the theory of the 1960's in a book on thermonuclear war.

Huey: I disagree with awards just as I do with lawsuits. We could get snowed under. Should be an independent group and not POINT.

Stewart: You keep spoiling our fun.

Huey: Spend your $50K the way you want.

Dick: I think it is a great idea and am all for it. Maybe Bill Duncan who started Briarpatch Auto Co-op.

Jerry: Should not be POINT awards.

Dick: Must we protect POINT, keep our anonymous status?

Mike: How about vacation? June to September? Also Dick wants to resign when we have a replacement.

Stewart: If there's a need we could meet in the summer, even if just to have a good time.

Huey: How could we get a song about the extinct Louisana Pelican on the hit parade?

Mike: Jerry has some singer friends.

Dick: I want to give awards outside of POINT but with POINT funds.

Huey: Why not secret awards such as those given by the Purple Gang in England around the turn of the century.

Stewart: Yes, anonymous giving.

Mike: I'd like to get some <u>fun</u> going by forming a secret organization.

Jerry: Let's all give some money to a secret fund.

All agreed: Set up a secret fund($6,000) to show on the books as "Secret Fund".

Jerry: Also I'd like to give a bit of information on the Council Grove Conference. In the field of Healing I found that there was a common language wherein they spoke of fields of energy and sickness as a blockage in the energy flow. What the healer does is to get the healee to believe that he or she themselves are the healer.

Very much impressed with Rinpoche Tarthang Tulku the Tibetan Lama.

Also met Jack Schwartz there. He is a healer and reads auras.

There was some general discussion on psychic forces, their benefits, dangers, and ways to protect oneself (namely don't fool around with them or prople who play with them). The difference between the positive and negative uses.

And so we ajourned.